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M E M O R A N D U M

To: EMS Providers
EMS Medical Directors
EMS Training Officers
Emergency Department Directors

From: Drexdal Pratt, Chief
Office of Emergency Medical Services

Date: May 29, 2001

Subject: Ambulance Call Report (ACR)
Prehospital Medical Information System (PreMIS)

For many years the OEMS has provided the Ambulance Call Report (ACR) forms at no charge to EMS providers. While we have never mandated use of the state ACR form, approximately forty percent of the EMS providers currently use it.

As a result of the state's current year budget deficit, estimated in excess of 800 million dollars, we have been unable to retain the funding necessary to continue providing the ACR forms. Funding for state programs is normally associated with performance, and we do not receive patient care data from any provider using the ACR; therefore, we have no patient care data to justify the continuation of the ACR form. Because the ACR system does not provide patient data, our focus has shifted to development and implementation of the Prehospital Medical Information System (PreMIS). Subsequently, our proposed budget for the next two years does not reflect sufficient funding to continue providing ACR forms.

While we realize that discontinuing the ACR forms may create a temporary problem for some EMS providers, the following represents some options you may want to consider: (1) The ACR is not copyrighted, thus providers may locate a local printer and reproduce the forms. The current form has several carbon copies, and providers may consider printing fewer carbon pages of each form to help reduce the cost. (2) Providers with a small call volume may consider duplicating the form using a photocopier. (3) Develop a custom form to meet your needs and print locally. (4) Adopt the North Carolina PreMIS form and agree to submit data by fax to PreMIS.

Over the last couple of weeks we have received numerous requests from providers wanting to use the PreMIS system for call-reporting. The system has been developed, and currently thirty-three counties are in the process of completing the PreMIS (paper version) training program.



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As a result of the unexpected discontinuation of the ACR, we are accelerating the training schedule of PreMIS and will now offer the training to all providers desiring to use the paper version of the system. Our goal is to have the initial thirty-three counties trained to use the paper version of PreMIS by the end of June. All other provider training will begin in July and be completed by September 30, 2001. In order to successfully meet this goal we ask that you please contact your OEMS Regional Specialist by Friday, June 29, 2001, to be included in this accelerated training schedule. Providers wishing to use the online version of PreMIS should contact the PreMIS staff directly at 1-866-PREMIS7 or 919-843-0390.

Due to the fact that PreMIS paper forms and patient wristbands are purchased with federal funds, we will be able provide the forms and wristbands free of charge to providers. In order to justify the purchase of the forms and wristbands, providers must agree to fax the data to the state, using the PreMIS toll free number or submit the data via the online version. Unfortunately we will be unable to provide forms and wristbands to those unwilling to submit the data to the state.

I apologize for any inconvenience our budget crisis may have caused you. Hopefully we have provided you with some viable options to collect your patient call report information. Should you have questions or need additional information, please contact your Regional Office or me.